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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/931,254	08/17/2001	Takashi Nishikado	500.40508X00	1488

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EXAMINER

GARG, YOGESH C

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3625

DATE MAILED: 12/15/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/931,254

Applicant(s)

NISHIKADO ET AL.

Examiner

Yogesh C Garg

Art Unit

3625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 August 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restriction

1. This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

Species of claims 3,4,5

Species of claims 3,4, 6-9

Species of claims 3,4, 6-8 and 10

Species of claims 3,4, 6-8 and 11

Species of claims 3,4, 6-7 and 12

Species of claims 3,4, 6-7 and 13

Species of claims 3,4, 6-7 and 14

Species of claims 15

Species of claims 16

Species of claims 17-18

Species of claims 19

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, claims 1-2 are generic.

Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

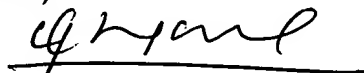
2. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim

remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yogesh C Garg whose telephone number is 703-306-0252. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F(8:30-4:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wynn Coggins can be reached on 703-308-1344. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Yogesh C Garg
Examiner
Art Unit 3625

YCG
December 9, 2004

Dictionary of Banking Terms

Fourth Edition

by

Thomas P. Fitch

Consulting Editors

Dr. Irwin L. Kellner

Chief Economist, *CBS MarketWatch*
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SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT

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- of the sale. The coupon is redeemable for goods or services, and also is the customer's sales receipt.
- temporary stock certificate or dividend payable in short-term promissory notes to conserve cash.

SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT adjustment for periodic swings in statistical data or changes in supply and demand. Data collected are adjusted or converted to an annual rate, a process that smooths out the differences from one period, or time series, to the next. For example, the volume of bank debits (checks and check-like drafts, including Negotiable Order of Withdrawal accounts, written by businesses and consumers) is higher in December than the following month's total, due mostly to year-end holiday shopping. Seasonal adjustment would reduce the December number, while raising the January figure. If there is no change in trends, both numbers would be identical. Seasonal adjustments also reveal a secular trend showing the cyclical movements of business data. An adjustment factor in annually reported data is unnecessary, as seasonal influence is no longer relevant.

Several statistical methods are used in adjusting reported data for seasonal trends; one of the most widely used is the ratio to moving average method, which divides the original data for a full year by 12. The most recent month (January in this example) is then added, the January data from the prior year deleted, and the total is again divided by 12, yielding the arithmetic mean.

Specific ratios are then computed by dividing the original data in each period by the full trend cycle to arrive at an index of seasonally adjusted data.

SEASONAL CREDIT

- credit arrangement, usually a **LINE OF CREDIT**, allowing corporate borrowers to finance inventory and receivables, purchase supplies, and pay wages during a manufacturing and sales cycle. The borrower has the option of using the line of credit anytime during a specified period, usually two years, and then becomes conventional **REVOLVING CREDIT**. A line of credit may, however, be less enforceable than a revolving line of credit.

The commitment fees and compensating balances the borrower pays to obtain a standby line are a less expensive way to borrow than a fixed term loan because the borrower draws only what is needed, and can pay down the outstanding balance at any time.

- extended credit, supplied by the **DISCOUNT WINDOW** at a Federal Reserve Bank for periods up to 90 days. Federal Reserve banks make these advances under certain conditions to smaller financial institutions that have a demonstrated seasonal need for funds or have difficulty raising funds from the national money market.

SEASONED LOAN loan that has been on the books for at least a year and has a satisfactory payment record. Mortgage loans that have been on the books for a period longer than a year command a pre-

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SECONDARY MORTGAGE MARKET

mium over unseasoned loans when sold in the **SECONDARY MORTGAGE MARKET**.

SEASONED SECURITIES securities that have a track record, that have been on the books at least one year, and that are traded in the secondary market. Seasoned securities are worth more to investors than securities that are less well known to investors.

SEASONING aging of a mortgage, loan, or securities expressed as elapsed time since origination. Mortgage loans that have a satisfactory payment record of at least one year, known as **SEASONED LOANS**, are more easily sold in the **SECONDARY MARKET** to investors than loans with payment characteristics that have not been established.

SECONDARY LIABILITIES see **CONTINGENT LIABILITY**.

SECONDARY MARKET the market where existing loans, marketable securities, stocks, bonds, and other assets are sold to investors, either directly or through an intermediary.

- Money Market.** The market where marketable debt instruments are offered by dealers for resale to new investors. For example, the dealer market in negotiable **CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT (CDs)** is concentrated in 25 dealers based in New York. Trades in negotiable CDs between dealers and their customers are in lots of \$1 million or more.

- Mortgages.** The nationwide **SECONDARY MORTGAGE MARKET** for purchase and sale of existing mortgages; the market in which mortgages are originated is the primary market. See also **SECURITIZATION**.

SECONDARY MORTGAGE MARKET national market where residential mortgages are assembled into pools and sold to investors. The secondary market, which originated with the **FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION** and the **FEDERAL HOME LOAN MORTGAGE CORPORATION**, and the **GOVERNMENT NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION**, supplies additional liquidity to mortgage lenders. Mortgages are sold through established **CONDUITS** that assemble pools of loans for resale or through private placement of loans directly with an investor. The secondary mortgage market, although dominated by the federal agencies, also includes private mortgage companies that buy conventional mortgages from mortgage originators, for resale as part of a **COLLATERALIZED MORTGAGE OBLIGATION**, or through a **REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE INVESTMENT CONDUIT**.

The single most important contribution of the secondary mortgage market is the creation of a national market for resale of residential mortgages. This assures that mortgage originators, regardless of where they are located, have access to pools of capital managed by pension funds, insurance companies, and other institutional buyers of mortgage-backed bonds. Home buyers are assured an adequate supply of mortgage financing, as the secondary market sales lessen the possibility that a lending institution will become loaned up and cease making